Declaring Your Income and Paying Taxes, a Matter of Righteousness

Do you believe that a person can be born again even if their life is characterized by serving two masters—that is, a life divided between God and the desire for gain? Answer: Yes — (wrong) Explanation: This answer reflects a misunderstanding of what it means to be born again. Being born again is not just a change in status, but a change in direction, motivation, and master. As it is written, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

His life is new, with new priorities, new desires, and a new direction. Being born again involves a call to discipleship and complete obedience to Christ.

Serving two masters is a life divided between God and the desire for gain. It is not just the rich—the poor can also serve Mammon.

Greed does not necessarily mean having millions, but living in a state of constant dissatisfaction with what you have, always wanting more, no matter how much you already have. It is a subtle form of idolatry—a disguised worship of oneself and the illusion of personal security.

Lord Jesus said that we cannot serve both God and Mammon (Matthew 6:24), showing that service requires total devotion, not a heart divided between God and the desire for gain.

Serving two masters is not only a wrong choice, but a form of disobedience to Christ's commandments, which require a whole heart and exclusive loyalty. Such a person, even if he professes to be a believer, but lives for himself, for money, work, and selfish interests, does not live as a new creature, as Christ requires. (Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. Matthew 6:19)

Lord Jesus firmly that there is no neutrality in the Kingdom of God. In the Gospel of Luke, He says, “Whoever is not with Me is against Me, and whoever does not gather with Me scatters.” (Luke 11:23).

He clearly defines that a person's heart always follows what they value most: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). If your treasure is earthly things—money, possessions, or personal security—then your heart will be tied to these temporary things.

To continue to set your mind on earthly things instead of seeking those above, to live to accumulate, is not only a selfish and wrong choice, but a path that leads to destruction. The Lord Jesus calls the man who puts his trust in the goods of this world without thinking about his soul a "fool":

"Fool! This night your soul is required of you.." (Luke 12:20 21) Greed is placed on the same level as idolatry, fornication, and adultery— sins that destroy not only the soul of the one who practices them, but also the purity and witness of the Christian community. Therefore, greed is not just a matter of wrong priorities, but a serious offense before God. Scripture is categorical: "Do not be deceived: ...the greedy will not inherit the Kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9-10).

Moreover, Scripture condemns greed not only as a personal weakness, but as a serious sin that must not be tolerated in the midst of the Church. Paul writes firmly: "Have no fellowship with anyone who, though he calls himself a brother, is... greedy" (1 Corinthians 5:11). A church that tolerates such sins proves that it does not have Christ as its Head and is therefore a dead church.

 Answer: No — Explanation: This is the correct answer. The new birth does not leave a person unchanged, but produces a transformed life. True faith causes a person to deny himself and follow Christ with all his heart. Grace does not nullify human responsibility, but makes it possible.

The life of a disciple is a call to complete dedication. Like a soldier who does not allow himself to be distracted by everyday concerns, Christ's disciple is called to remain focused on his heavenly goal—to become like his Teacher. Scripture reminds us that "No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him" (2 Timothy 2:4). This image clearly emphasizes that the life of discipleship cannot coexist with a life centered on the accumulation of material goods or the desire to keep up with the world.

The disciple does not live for the transitory things of the earth, but for what is eternal. He chooses to live as his Teacher lived—with his eyes and heart fixed on heaven.

He directs his thoughts and efforts toward things above, not toward the things below (Colossians 3:2). His goal is not to accumulate for himself, but to reflect the character of Christ—a character defined by selfless love, not selfishness.

True love, as described in 1 Corinthians 13:5, "does not seek its own" but the good of the other. This is the essence of a life lived in authentic discipleship.

Hoarding treasures for oneself is contrary to the spirit of discipleship. While the world values the accumulation of material goods, Christ's disciple is called to use everything he has—resources, time, abilities—to invest in eternal purposes: to meet the needs of those around him, to contribute to the expansion of God's Kingdom. “The wage of the righteous leads to life” (Proverbs 10:16), not to build an illusory security in the present world.

If you have lived with the idea of gathering treasures on earth, it is time to reorient your heart. The true treasure is in heaven, and it is gathered through generosity, service, and living in obedience to Christ. Align your life with His will, and you will discover riches that never perish.

This post is an excerpt from the booklet “Are You Truly Born Again? – Biblical Questionnaire”, which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.